

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009464
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-05 /016 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B - MR. PACE:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA/AND/B - MR. PACE
-----142326Z 049552 /64
O 142315Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 009464

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OTRA, EAID, BL

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ACTION OFFICIAL ROBERT ARIAS

1. DEPARTMENT LEARNED OF VISIT OF MR. ARIAS TO BOLIVIA ON MORNING OF JANUARY 14, AT WHICH POINT IT WAS TOO LATE TO DETER HIM FROM REACHING LA PAZ. ACTION/PEACE CORPS INFORMS US THAT ARIAS' VISIT TO BOLIVIA WAS NOT CLEARED BY APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THAT ORGANIZATION. ARIAS REPRESENTS THE DOMESTIC SIDE OF ACTION'S PROGRAMS, AND HIS PURPOSE IN VISITING BOLIVIA IS TO ASSESS THE ATMOSPHERE THERE FOR ACTION ADVISORY EFFORTS OF THE KIND DISCUSSED BETWEEN MR. JORGE CORDOVA AND THE BOLIVIAN SECRETARIAT-GENERAL OF YOUTH AND SPORTS. ACTION/PEACE CORPS WILL ATTEMPT TO PHONE MR. ARIAS ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 14 TO ENSURE THAT HE DOES NOT CONTACT ANY GOB OFFICIALS WITHOUT FIRST MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY OFFICERS.

2. WE REGARD THIS AS A VERY REGRETTABLE BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE ACTION ORGANIZATION, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF A CONVERSATION ON JANUARY 11 BETWEEN AN ACTION/PEACE CORPS OFFICIAL AND ARA/AND IN WHICH IT WAS MADE VERY UNCLASSIFIED

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CLEAR TO THE ACTION OFFICER THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON ANY FUTURE ACTION ROLE IN BOLIVIA, AS DEFINED IN HIS LETTER TO MR. DELLENBACK, CONTINUE TO REPRESENT STATE DEPARTMENT

POLICY. SPECIFICALLY, ACTION WAS INFORMED THAT ANY VISIT TO BOLIVIA BY ACTION PERSONNEL OR OTHER APPROACHES TO GOB OFFICIALS SEEKING TO DRAW OUT REACTIONS ON FUTURE ACTION

PROGRAMS IN BOLIVIA WOULD BE IN CONTRAVENTION OF ESTABLISHED
POLICY GUIDELINES ON THIS QUESTION.

3. DEPARTMENT HOPES THAT EMBASSY AND ACTION REPRESENTATIVE
ARIAS WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TERMS
OF REFERENCE FOR HIS CURRENT VISIT TO BOLIVIA. IN VIEW
OF COOPERATION SHOWN US BY RESPONSIBLE ACTION OFFICIALS
OVER THIS FOUL-UP, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT FUTURE RELATIONS
BETWEEN ACTION AND EMBASSY WILL TAKE PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE
OF MUTUAL COMPREHENSION AND TRUST.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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